Overcrowding in Tihar jail

2999. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to Tihar jail in Delhi he found the jail overcrowded with prisoners;

(b) whether it is also a fact that similar situation of overcrowding prevails in almost all the jails of the country; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the statistics compiled by National Crime Records Bureau, the overcrowding in Indian jails as on 31.12.2007 is to the extent of 135.7% since the inmate population in the jails of the country is 3,76,396 against the total authorized capacity of 2,77,304 inmates.

(c) "Prisons" is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, measures taken by the Government to reduce overcrowding in jails, *interalia*, include the following:—

(i) A new Section *viz.* 436A has been inserted in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to provide that where an undertrial prisoner other than the one accused of an offence for which death has been prescribed as one of the punishments, has been under detention for a period extending to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment, provided for the alleged offence, he should be released on his personal bond, with or without sureties. It also provides that in no case will an undertrial prisoner be detained beyond the maximum period of imprisonment for which he can be convicted for the alleged offence.

(ii) Section 436(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has been amended to make a mandatory provision that if the arrested person is accused for a bailable offence and he is an indigent and cannot furnish surety, the Court shall release him on his execution of a bond without sureties.

(iii) The Government of India has introduced the system of plea bargaining primarily to reduce pendency of cases in trial courts and overcrowding in prisons.

(iv) For disposal of long pending sessions and other cases, Government of India has also set up 1562 Fast Track Courts for speedy disposal of cases.

National Reference Library under Assam Accord

3000. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal for establishment of National Reference Library in the North-East under Clause VI of Assam Accord;

(b) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the Department of Culture, State of Assam; and

(c) if so, the details of the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Government of Assam had forwarded a proposal for establishment of a Media Archives-cum-National Reference Library for the North Eastern Region. The matter was discussed in an inter-ministerial meeting, in which representatives of the State Government of Assam were also present. The State Government has been requested to examine the proposal further and submit their recommendations.

Software for disaster management

3001. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disaster Management Organization proposed to be strengthened to enhance its capability in the country for undertaking real-time as well as the systematic scientific surveys so as to improve their functional efficiency both at the detection and implementation levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a software will be created to simultaneously detect, implement and estimate the financial inputs of immediate relief and rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM) envisages for Hazard zonation, mapping and vulnerability analysis in a multi-hazard framework utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) based databases such as National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM) and National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The NPDM also stresses the need to establish, upgrade and modernize the forecasting and early warning systems for all types of disasters. It recognizes the need for partnership with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Pacific Tsunami Warning System and other regional and global institutions. The NPDM has also stressed for Research and Development support to the Disaster Management architecture in the country.

Such measures are expected to strengthen and enhance the capability for response, relief and rehabilitation and reduce the adverse impact of natural disasters in the country.

This Ministry is not developing any software for detecting, implementing, and estimating financial inputs of immediate relief and rehabilitation.

Tripartite meeting on Gorkhaland

3002. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: